

## **CLAIMS**

What we claim is:

- 5 1. A semantic object representing an entity or tacit information, the semantic object comprising:
  - semantic tags describing attributes of the entity or tacit information, including relationships to other semantic objects, to physical or software objects, or to information existing in the mind of a human being; and
  - 10 rules embodying goals, automation and other policies regarding how the semantic object interacts with, is manipulated by, and is displayed to human beings and automatic processes;
    - wherein a semantic object can be searched using semantic tags and meta-data contained in the semantic object, the meta-data being paired with the
    - 15 semantic tags and wherein the semantic tags can be extended by an owner of the semantic object and shared over a network.
2. A method of managing a relationship between a first semantic object and a second semantic object, wherein the relationship is represented by a third
- 20 semantic object, the method comprising:
  - posting an invitation semantic object;
  - accepting the invitation semantic object;
  - providing the second semantic object with a first set of policies of the first semantic object and providing the first semantic object with a second set of
  - 25 policies of the second semantic object, wherein the policies can prevent data from being received at a semantic object by preventing data from originating at a source;
  - encapsulating data about the relationship in the third semantic object; and
  - enabling modification of either set of policies during the relationship.
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